

Remarks

Claims 1-6 have been amended. The Title of the Invention has been amended.

The Examiner has objected to the Title of the Invention as not descriptive of the invention. Applicant has amended the Title as above set forth and the amended Title is now believed to be descriptive of the invention. The examiner's objection has thus been obviated.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention. In particular, the Examiner argues that in each of claims 1 and 4 there is insufficient basis for the limitation "wherein said signal processing unit and said recording unit are disposed in different housings."

In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1 and 4 have both been amended to recite "a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, different from each other" and "wherein said signal processing unit and said recording unit are disposed in the first housing and the second housing, respectively." Amended claims 1 and 4, and their respective dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6, are thus now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention in compliance with the provisions of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has further objected to claims 2-3 and 5-6 as informal for reciting "An image recording apparatus" and "An image pickup apparatus." The Examiner suggests that the word "an" in each of these claims be changed to --The--. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been amended as suggest by the Examiner thereby obviating this objection.

The Examiner has further rejected applicant's claims 1-6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as

unpatentable over the Ohmori patent (US Patent No. 5,790,193) in view of the art described in applicant's specification. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. In particular, amended claim 1 now recites an image recording apparatus comprising: a signal processing unit for processing an image signal; a recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium; a display unit for displaying the image signal; and a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, different from each other, wherein said signal processing unit and said recording unit are disposed in the first housing and the second housing, respectively. Claim 4 has been similarly amended. In applicant's figures, for example, the element 4 serves as the second housing and the element 6 serves as the first housing.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the Ohmori patent discloses in FIG. 7 a digital camera 12 and an accessory module 10. The patent states that the "accessory module 10 is electrically connected to the memory card interface 58 in the camera 12 via a card terminal 80 on the adaptor unit 20, which mates with the card connector 59 in the memory card slot 26." The digital camera 12 and accessory module 10 thus have separate and distinct housings.

The patent, therefore, fails to teach or suggest an image recording apparatus having "a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, different from each other, and wherein said signal processing unit and said recording unit are disposed in the first housing and

the second housing, respectively.” As previously stated, in the Ohmori, the camera 12 and accessory have separate housings and there is no main housing having first and second different housings, wherein a signal processing unit and a recording unit are disposed in the first and second housings, respectively.

Moreover, the art discussed in applicant’s specification was cited only for its teachings of recording data by heating a recording medium. Therefore, it adds nothing to the Ohmori patent to change the above conclusion.

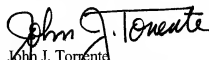
Applicant’s amended claims 1 and 4, and their respective dependent claims, in reciting “a signal processing unit . . . a recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium . . . a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, different from each other, wherein said signal processing unit and said recording unit are disposed in the first housing and the second housing, respectively”, thus patentably distinguish over the Ohmori patent and the art discussed in applicant’s specification.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant’s claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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